

Symposium of the U.S. Statistical Agencies
November 13 and 14, 2013



November 13, 8:45am- 12:15 pm: Statistics for Economists

Organizers: Jim Plante (BEA) and Wendy Martinez (BLS)

Session Chair: Jim Plante (BEA)

Session Overview: During this session, presenters will focus on how statistics can be applied to areas of interest to economists and finance professionals. There also will be talks focused on data visualization, understanding price indices, and more. Speakers from the Bureau of Labor Statistics, Bureau of Economic Analysis, U.S. Census Bureau, and National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics will make presentations.

Erica Groshen (Commissioner, BLS)

Opening remarks

Erica L. Groshen became the 14th Commissioner of Labor Statistics in January 2013. Prior to joining BLS, Dr. Groshen was a Vice President in the Research and Statistics Group at the Federal Reserve Bank of New York. Her research has focused on labor markets over the business cycle, regional economics, wage rigidity and dispersion, the male-female wage differential, and the role of employers in labor market outcomes. She also served on advisory boards for BLS and the U.S. Census Bureau.

Before joining the Federal Reserve Bank of New York in 1994, Dr. Groshen was a visiting assistant professor of economics at Barnard College at Columbia University and an economist at the Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland. She was a visiting economist at the Bank for International Settlements in Basel, Switzerland, in 1999–2000. Dr. Groshen earned a Ph.D. in economics from Harvard University and a bachelor's degree in economics and mathematics from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.



J. Steven Landefeld (U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis)

New Data Sources and Methods for GDP and other Economic Statistics

Abstract

Since its inception, the Bureau of Economic Analysis has used a mix of public and private data to provide a comprehensive picture of overall economic activity that has proven to be timely and accurate. However, in our modern world, an explosion of new data sources producing large volumes of high frequency data are becoming a common tool in the private commercial business sector. So what is the role, if any, do these new data sources such as “big data” play in the production of official economic statistics? This presentation will discuss the challenges and opportunities in using “big data” in the production of more accurate, timely and relevant economic statistics.

Biography

Steve Landefeld has served as Director of the Bureau of Economic Analysis since 1995. Prior to becoming Director, he served in a number of other capacities at BEA including Deputy Director and the Associate Director for International Economics. While at BEA, Dr. Landefeld has led a number of pioneering statistical and management initiatives that have been recognized nationally and internationally. Prior to coming to BEA, he served as Chief of Staff for the President's Council of Economic Advisers. He holds a Ph.D. in economics from the University of Maryland.



John R. Gawalt (National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics)

Statistics and Tools to Measure the Scientific Enterprise

Abstract

The National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics (NCSES) serves as the federal clearinghouse for information on the scientific enterprise. Through a combination of direct data collection and partnerships with other public and private entities, NCSES provides authoritative information on human capital and R&D investments in science and engineering. In this presentation, we focus on the use of this information to inform the public about broad economic trends in the U.S.

Biography

Mr. John Gawalt serves as Director of the National Science Foundation's National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics (NCSES). He has served as Deputy Director for NCSES and prior to that as Program Director for its Information and Technology Services Program, where he was responsible for design, development, and operation of the NCSES website, traditional and electronic publishing, online data access, database management, and general information technology support.

William Bostic (Census Bureau)

Overview of U.S. Census Bureau Economic Programs

Abstract

This presentation will focus on the comprehensive economic data provided by the Census Bureau. It will demonstrate how these data provide a detailed, accurate portrait of the U.S. economy and can help stimulate economic growth. The presentation will first focus on the Economic Indicators, our most timely economic data, and the America's Economy mobile app, which gives economists easy access to these data. It will then highlight the more detailed quarterly and annual data that also are available. Finally, the presentation will profile the Economic Census, the source of our most detailed economic data. We will discuss the new offerings from the 2012 Economic Census (including the Enterprise Statistics program) as well as new data for over 5,000 small U.S. communities never before separately measured by the Economic Census.

Biography

Bill Bostic has been the U.S. Census Bureau's Associate Director for Economic Programs since April 2011. His responsibilities are to oversee the operations of the Census Bureau's Economic Programs Directorate. Mr. Bostic started his Census Bureau career in 1976 and has more than 25 years of managerial and leadership experience in overseeing Census Bureau economic survey programs.



Edward J. Wegman (George Mason University)

Visualizing Transaction Data: A Case Study for the CPI

Abstract

In this talk we introduce some visualization tools including parallel coordinates, grand tour and saturation brushing. These techniques were used to study point of sales data for breakfast cereals with the idea of possibly incorporating scanner data into the consumer price index, replacing the more traditional surveys. The use of this transaction data uncovered some unexpected anomalies in the scanner data that made the use of scanner data problematic for use in the CPI.

Biography

Dr. Wegman is the Bernard J. Dunn Professor of Data Sciences and Applied Statistics. He was the chief architect and Editor-in-Chief of *Wiley Interdisciplinary Reviews: Computational Statistics*. He has published more than 200 papers and 10 books in a 45 year career. He has directed 41 doctoral dissertations and has been Editor of the *Journal of the American Statistical Association*. He holds a split appointment between the Department of Statistics and the School of Physics, Astronomy and Computational Sciences. His work has been highly interdisciplinary including not only statistics and data visualization, but also computational social sciences, alcohol research, computer science, electrical engineering, and educational technology. He is Fellow of the American Statistical Association, the Institute of Mathematical Statistics, the American Association for the Advancement of Science; Senior Member of the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers; and Elected Member of the International Statistical Institute and the Research Society on Alcoholism.



Steven Paben (Bureau of Labor Statistics)
Bootstrap Variance Estimation in Industrial Prices

Abstract

Over the last few years, both the International Price Program (IPP) and the Producer Price Index (PPI) Program have been developing variance estimates. In September 2012, IPP published its first set of variance estimates for All Exports and All Imports. Meanwhile, PPI is about to put their new variance system into production. To calculate their variances, both programs use a resampling method called the Bootstrap, or more specifically the Rao-Wu Rescaled Bootstrap.

In this talk, the fundamentals of the bootstrap methodology will be explained, and some basic examples will be illustrated for both IPP and PPI. Additionally, comparisons will be made between calculating standard normal-based confidence intervals and empirically-based confidence intervals. Finally, there will be a discussion of how variance estimates will be utilized by IPP and PPI.

Biography

Steve joined BLS in 1996 after receiving a Master's degree in Applied Statistics from Florida State University. He received a Bachelor's degree in Mathematics from the University of West Florida in 1994. Steve spent eight years in the Statistical Methods Group of OCWC working on the National Compensation Survey. In 2004, he became Branch Chief of International Prices in the Statistical Methods Division. He has been Chief of the Prices Statistical Methods Division since 2008.

Mike Horrigan (Bureau of Labor Statistics)

Big Data and the U.S. Statistical System – a view from the Bureau of Labor Statistics

Abstract

This session will examine the emerging world of big data and what it means and what it might mean for the U.S. Statistical system. The speaker explores definitional frameworks for thinking about big data and then examines how the Bureau of Labor Statistics currently uses such techniques. The talk concludes with a perspective on how the U.S. statistical system might leverage big data in the future.

Biography

Dr. Michael Horrigan has worked at the Bureau of Labor Statistics since 1986 in a variety of positions. From 2004-2007, he oversaw the BLS Producer Price Index program. Since March 2007, Mike Horrigan has served as Associate Commissioner in the Office of Prices and Living Conditions (OPLC). This office publishes consumer, producer and import/export price indexes as well as estimates of consumption expenditures.



November 13, 1:15 pm- 4:30 pm: Statistics in Health

Organizers: Pavlina Rumcheva (NCHS), Neil Tillman (Census),
Lauren K. Shaw (Census)

Session Overview: At this session, presenters from the National Cancer Institute, National Center for Health Statistics, Census Bureau, and Food and Drug Administration will discuss how statistical methodology can be used to better understand health-care related concerns, including health insurance coverage, quality of cancer care, and combining information to enhance analyses related to health.

Christopher Moriarity (NCHS)

The National Health Interview Survey: Sample Design, Sample Augmentation, Sample Redesign Plans

Abstract

The National Health Interview Survey (NHIS) is a continuous survey sponsored by the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) that has collected health data using personal interviews since 1957. The NHIS sample design is complex, with multiple stages of sampling, beginning with primary sampling units (PSU) and then additional stages of sampling within each PSU to obtain a sample of addresses.

NCHS started receiving supplemental funding in 2010 to expand the NHIS sample in select states, beginning with the 2011 NHIS. A variety of methods have been used to augment the NHIS sample in the designated areas.

Since its inception, the NHIS sample has been redesigned following each decennial census of the population to accommodate changes in survey requirements and to take into account the changes in the population and its distribution. The current sample design of the NHIS, which was implemented at the beginning of 2006, is based on Census 2000 information. Research has been underway for several years to prepare for the next NHIS sample redesign, which is scheduled for implementation at the beginning of 2016.

Biography

Chris Moriarity is a mathematical statistician in the Division of Health Interview Statistics, National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS). His responsibilities at NCHS include providing consultation on survey design and analysis. Chris's prior professional experience includes positions at the U.S. Bureau of the Census, NCHS, and the Government Accountability Office, prior to returning to NCHS in 2005. Chris served as Secretary of the Washington Statistical Society from July 2007 to June 2009 and currently is serving as a Section Representative to the Council of Sections from the Survey Research Methods Section. Chris received a Ph.D. in Statistics from The George Washington University in 2001.

Barry Graubard (NCI)

Estimating Sibling Recurrence Risk in Population Sample Surveys

Abstract

Sibling recurrence risk (SRR), a measure of familial aggregation of a disease, is used in genetic epidemiology to indicate possible genetic causes of disease. Estimating SRR requires information about the disease status of sibships of families with two or more siblings where at least one is affected. Network sampling used in survey research offers a way to ascertain disease status of sibships in household surveys samples, and obtain (approximately) unbiased estimators of SRR. Reported diabetes for siblings from the 1976 National Health Interview is used to illustrate that network sampling estimators can provide population estimates of SRR for diabetes.

Biography

Barry Graubard is an Intramural Senior Investigator in the Biostatistics Branch, Division of Cancer Epidemiology and Genetics, National Cancer Institute and is a Fellow of the American Statistical Association and the American Association for the Advancement of Science. Dr. Graubard's research focuses on statistical methodology for the design and analysis of epidemiologic and surveillance studies using complex sample designs. He has co-authored more than 350 papers, including a textbook with Edward Korn entitled *Analysis of Health Surveys*.



Jennifer Cheeseman Day and Lucinda Dalzell (Census)

Health Insurance Coverage from the Census Bureau – National and Local

Abstract

Our presentation focuses on the rich array of statistics available from the Census Bureau on health and health insurance. As part of the presentation, we will show an application of health insurance estimates, including a demo of an interactive map allowing users to view state and county health insurance coverage data for many population groups.

Biographies

Jennifer Cheeseman Day is the Assistant Division Chief for Employment Characteristics of the Social, Economic, and Housing Statistics Division at the U.S. Census Bureau. She oversees the Bureau's statistics on health, disability, and labor force from several Census Bureau surveys. Dr. Day has authored numerous Census Bureau reports and papers, and most recently, led the Bureau's efforts to create the Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) tabulation as well as the first Disability Employment tabulation. Previously, she has served as the Chief of the Education and Social Stratification Branch and as an analyst in the Population Projections Branch. She earned her doctorate from American University in Sociology, attended Georgetown University's Demography program, and Rollins College



Biographies, CONTINUED:

Lucinda (Lucie) Dalzell is the Chief of the Small Area Estimates Branch of the Social, Economic, and Housing Statistics Division at the U.S. Census Bureau. She manages the Bureau's two model-based estimation production efforts: the Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates (SAIPE) program and the Small Area Health Insurance Estimates (SAHIE) program. Ms. Dalzell has a broad range of experience at the Census Bureau, previously serving as an analyst on economic surveys and population estimates and leading numerous IT development projects. Ms. Dalzell is a certified Project Management Professional (PMP), has a Master's in Demography from Georgetown University, and Bachelor's degree from Franklin & Marshall College.



Nathaniel Schenker (NCHS)

Combining Information from Multiple Data Systems to Enhance Analyses Related to Health: Examples and Lessons Learned

Abstract

Combining information from multiple data systems can take advantage of the different strengths of the different systems to help provide information that is not available from any of the systems alone. This talk will discuss three examples of combining information from two data systems to enhance measures of health. The projects can be described briefly as (1) combining information from a health survey of households and a health survey of nursing homes to extend coverage; (2) combining information from an examination-based health survey and an interview-based health survey to improve on analyses of self-reported data; and (3) combining information from two interview-based health surveys to enhance small-area estimation. The talk will highlight the goals, techniques, results, and lessons learned from the projects and will briefly mention some other examples of combining information.

Biography

Nathaniel Schenker is Associate Director for Research and Methodology at the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) and Adjunct Professor in the Joint Program in Survey Methodology, University of Maryland. His research interests include handling incomplete data, census and survey methods, survival analysis, statistical computation, and applications of statistics to the health and social sciences. He is the President-Elect of the American Statistical Association (ASA), a member of the Federal Committee on Statistical Methodology and the Committee on National Statistics Panel to Review the 2010 Census, and a past recipient of ASA's Roger Herriot Award for Innovation in Federal Statistics and NCHS's Elijah White Outstanding Scientist Award. Dr. Schenker received his bachelor's degree from Princeton University and his master's and doctoral degrees from the University of Chicago.



Yulei He (NCHS)

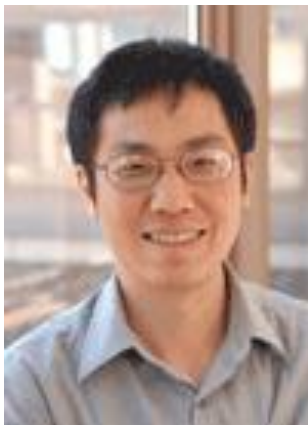
Quality of Cancer Care among Foreign-Born and US-Born Patients with Lung or Colorectal Cancer

Abstract

Disparities in care have been documented for foreign-born cancer patients in the United States. We assessed whether patient-reported quality and receipt of recommended care differed between US-born and foreign born cancer patients using surveys and medical records for a population-based cohort of lung or colorectal cancer diagnosed in California from 2003 through 2005. We also assessed whether language explained any differences in care by nativity. Overall, foreign-born patients were less likely than US-born patients to report excellent quality of care, a difference partly explained by the language of the survey, an indicator of English proficiency. Foreign-born patients were less likely to receive chemotherapy and radiotherapy for stage II/III rectal cancer, and rates of other treatments did not differ significantly by nativity.

Biography

Yulei He is a Senior Service Fellow in the Office of Research and Methodology at the National Center for Health Statistics. His methodological research interests include missing data analysis, Bayesian modeling, and survey data estimation. His collaborative research interests include health outcomes and services studies, quality of health care, applied health economics which span multiple disease areas including cancer, cardiovascular diseases, and mental illness.



Gregory Campbell (FDA)

Biostatistics in Public Policy: A View from the Food and Drug Administration

Abstract Statisticians at the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) provide statistical reviews of submissions that companies send before they can market medical products; these submissions are both for the design before any data are collected and also for the completed statistical analysis of the trial results. A large variety of statistical methodologies are brought to bear in these statistical reviews. FDA also relies for outside advice on a large number of Advisory Committee meetings under the auspices of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA) each year at which biostatisticians provide valuable input to FDA about particular submissions and also about more general problems. In addition, FDA writes draft guidance documents on a variety of topics, some of which have statistical implications, and solicits public comments on them. Biostatisticians have helped and will continue to help shape public policy through all these activities.

Biography Dr. Campbell currently leads a group of about 55 statisticians as Director of the Division of Biostatistics in the Office of Surveillance and Biometrics (OSB) of Center for Devices and Radiological Health (CDRH) of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) that provides statistical support to CDRH as a whole and, in particular, the statistical reviews of FDA's pre-market device submissions. With a Ph.D. in Mathematical Statistics from Florida State University, he served on the faculty in the Department of Statistics at Purdue University and then joined the National Institutes of Health, where he became a tenured intramural research scientist, Acting Chief for the Laboratory of Statistical and Mathematical Methodology, and Chief of the Analytical Biometrics Section. He pioneered the implementation in a regulatory environment of Bayesian statistics (and more recently causal inference) and his current research interests include statistical issues in device clinical studies, adaptive designs, and the evaluation of diagnostic tests from microarrays. He serves as Associate Editor for *Statistics in Pharmaceutical Research* and *Journal of Biopharmaceutical Statistics*. Having been a member for more than ten years in the Senior Biomedical Research Service in the Department of Health and Human Services, he is a Fellow of the American Statistical Association and the recipient of the FDA's Commendable Service Award, Award of Merit and Outstanding Service Award and CDRH Outstanding Scientific Award for Excellence in Analytical Science.



November 13, 10 a.m.-12 p.m. & 2 pm- 4 pm: Careers in Statistics

Organizers: Emily Gross (IRS), Yan Liu (IRS) and Sue King (NASS)

Chair: Emily Gross (IRS)

Morning moderator: Mary Braunger (IRS)

Afternoon moderator: Helen McCulley (BLS)

Session Overview:

This two-part session, targeted to college statistics students, will explore various career paths, career-development skills, tips for landing a position with a federal statistical agency, and networking with professionals in government statistics. Representatives from the Bureau of Labor Statistics, Bureau of Justice Statistics, Internal Revenue Service Statistics of Income, Census Bureau, National Agricultural Statistics Service, National Center for Health Statistics, Center for Behavioral Health Statistics and Quality, and Food and Drug Administration will present.

MORNING SESSIONS

Susan Boehmer (IRS)

Career Choices in Statistics: Statistics of Income Division, IRS

Abstract

Ms. Susan Boehmer will discuss with participants the role of the Statistics of Income (SOI) Division as it collects and processes data from tax returns. SOI shares information about how the tax system works with other parts of the IRS, other government agencies, and the general public. SOI projects cover taxes related to individuals, businesses, estates, nonprofit organizations, trusts, and foreign investments. SOI publishes data and reports about the tax system through the TaxStats section of IRS.gov and through traditional print publications such as the SOI Bulletin.

Biography

Susan Boehmer is the director of the Statistics of Income (SOI) Division in IRS's Office of Research, Analysis, and Statistics, a position she has held since June 2010. SOI collects, analyzes, and disseminates information on virtually all aspects of Federal taxation for the Treasury Department, the U.S. Congress, the IRS in its administration of the tax law, other organizations engaged in economic and financial analysis, and the general public.

Susan Boehmer began her career in 1980 as a co-op student with the IRS Inspection Service Internal Audit Department in Cincinnati, Ohio, and hasn't looked back since. Ms. Boehmer is currently the director of the Statistics of Income (SOI) Division in IRS's Office of Research, Analysis, and Statistics, a position she has held since June 2010. SOI collects, analyzes, and disseminates information on virtually all aspects of Federal taxation for the Treasury Department, the U.S. Congress, the IRS in its administration of the tax law, other organizations engaged in economic and financial analysis, and the general public. Other noteworthy leadership positions at the IRS include the Seamless Taxpayer Experience Group, which served as a catalyst for identifying and coordinating taxpayer-focused, cross-functional improvements. In addition, Susan previously served as IRS Wage and Investment's first Chief, Business Systems Security Office, which included the IRS Identity Theft Program Office, and as the Director, Strategic Operations for the Earned Income Tax Credit program – a means-tested benefit program in excess of \$30 billion dollars.



Tommy Wright (Census)

How I came to Statistics

Abstract

Dr. Wright discusses how his education and research experience led him to statistics and ultimately to a career in public service at the Census Bureau and the research opportunities a career there allows.

Biography

Tommy Wright, native of Birmingham, AL, has served as Chief of the Center for Statistical Research and Methodology, U. S. Bureau of the Census since January 1996 and as adjunct member of the faculty at Georgetown University since 2009. Between 1979 and 1996, he was a research staff member of the Mathematical Sciences Section at Oak Ridge National Laboratory. His research interests have focused on probability sampling and estimation; and elementary applied probability and combinatorics. He has over 30 years of undergraduate/graduate teaching experience in statistics and mathematics. Formal education: M.S. and Ph.D, statistics from The Ohio State University; M.S., mathematics from the University of Tennessee; and B.S. in mathematics from Knoxville College. Professional recognition: (1) Elected Member, International Statistical Institute (1989) and (2) Fellow, American Statistical Association (1995).



Mark Apodaca (NASS)

Agricultural Statistics: A career that's Hotter than Beans and Rice

Abstract

With 3.28 million farmers growing food, fuel and fiber on 922 million U.S. acres, accurate, timely and useful statistics are critical to everyone from government policymakers, food companies, scientists and researchers, to the commodities markets many other data users. NASS is the federal statistical agency responsible for producing official U.S. statistics on agriculture. We have a long history of hiring college graduates and providing advancing career paths. Mr. Apodaca will share information on the work we do, student opportunities at NASS, and the types of educational backgrounds we seek for our employees who are involved in the exciting and meaningful work of providing official agricultural statistics.

Biography

Mark Apodaca has been employed with NASS for over 21 years. Mark currently heads the Commodity Section in the Summary Estimation and Disclosure Methodology Branch of Methods Division. This section is responsible for NASS' agricultural estimates program. Mark obtained a Master's of Science Degree in Experimental Statistics (1992) and a Bachelor of Science in Mathematics (1990) from New Mexico State University. Mark has been with NASS since 1992. He received the Agricultural Secretary Honor Award in 2001 for the development of a state-of-the-art interactive data analysis system. NASS conducts hundreds of surveys a year, releasing nearly 500 national reports on agricultural production, economics, demographics, and environmental statistics. NASS also conducts the Census of Agriculture every five years.



Meena Khare (NCHS)

An Overview of the Career and Research Opportunities at the National Center for Health Statistics

Abstract

The National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) of the CDC conducts several household and establishment based health surveys. NCHS also collects vital statistics from each of the states in the United States. This presentation will provide an overview of the NCHS data systems including information on availability of the micro-data files for public health research and career opportunities for statisticians.

Biography

Meena Khare is the Senior Advisor for Statistical Programs, Office of Research and Methodology at the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS). She has been working as a senior mathematical statistician and survey methodologist at the NCHS for the last 25 years. She has applied statistical methods in a wide range of public health application areas including survey design, sample weighting and estimation methods, epidemiology, environmental or spatial sampling, geo-statistics, data processing and quality control, disclosure avoidance and confidentiality methods applied to micro-data files, multiple imputation of missing survey data, Bayesian methods, and utilization review of the health insurance claims data.



AFTERNOON SESSIONS

Thomas Gwise (FDA)

Mathematical Statisticians at the FDA's Center for Drug Evaluation and Research

Abstract

This presentation will give an overview of the contributions made by statisticians at FDA's Center for Drug Evaluation and Research in ensuring drugs marketed in the US are safe and effective. Additionally, a description of the employment application process will be discussed.

Biography

Dr. Thomas Gwise has been with FDA for eight years and is currently serving as Deputy Division Director in FDA's Center for Drug Evaluation and Research, Division of Biometrics 5 which assists in reviewing oncology and imaging drugs. Dr Gwise was previously a team leader and reviewer in the Center for Devices and Radiological Health. Before his time at FDA, he was group leader of the Environmental Radiological Protection Group at Stanford University's Linear Accelerator Center; he worked as a civilian in health physics for the Department of the Navy and served in the Navy onboard the aircraft carrier USS Enterprise. Dr Gwise has a Ph.D. in Statistics from The University of Virginia.



Charles Day (SAMHSA)

Playing in Everyone Else's Backyard

Abstract

The great statistician John Tukey once said that, “The best part of being a statistician is that you get to play in everyone else’s backyard.” The Federal workplace offers a wide array of subject areas to which statistics may be applied, and the opportunity to employ a diversity of techniques to data from those areas. I will briefly discuss several applications of techniques drawn from different areas of statistics to widely different subject matter using examples from my own career. The majority of the talk will focus on what we do at the Center for Behavioral Health Statistics and Quality (CBHSQ), the many roles of statisticians there, and the opportunities to learn from highly accomplished colleagues in other disciplines. In other words, I’ll talk about why the CBHSQ neighborhood has so many interesting backyards to play in.

Biography

Charles Day is a statistician with the Center for Behavioral Health Statistics and Quality at the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. He holds a BS in Economics, an MS in Statistics, and an MS in Computer Science, all from George Mason University. Charles just completed his thirtieth year of government service and worked for the Statistics of Income Division at IRS and the National Agricultural Statistics Service prior to joining SAMHSA.

Daniela Golinelli (Department of Justice)

The Work of Statisticians at BJS

Abstract

In this presentation, I will describe the unique characteristics of the work that a statistician does at BJS. First, I will briefly describe BJS's mission and organization. These two aspects, together with BJS size, influence the type of professionals that are hired at BJS. It will soon become clear that overall BJS's statisticians have diverse backgrounds. In addition, I will talk about how and why I joined BJS and describe the major components of my job, as supervisory statistician, as well as the job of other statisticians at BJS.

Biography

Daniela Golinelli is the Chief of the Corrections Unit at the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS), USDOJ. At BJS, she supervises 8 statisticians and all the data collections in the Corrections Unit portfolio. Prior to joining BJS she was a visiting assistant professor at the University of Southern California and more recently a Senior Statistician at RAND. While at RAND she worked on a variety of studies spanning several areas both substantively and methodologically. She has expertise both in randomized controlled studies (e.g., evaluating interventions for anxious patients) and observational studies (e.g., assessing the associations between personal network characteristics and risky behaviors among the homeless). Her methodological interests focus on sampling designs, analysis of survey data, propensity score methods, and Bayesian statistics. She holds a PhD in Statistics from the University of Washington.



Helen McCulley (BLS)

Statistics as a Career – It's not just numbers!

Abstract

One of the most rewarding parts of a statistician's career is often their ability to work in many disciplines and use more of their personal talents than just their ability to turn data into analysis. With opportunities to conduct research, teach, publish papers, write computer programs, and much more, a statistician can guide his or her career in many satisfying directions. Another perk to this often multi-talented career choice is being able to work with people from many different fields. The high variety of available work and work environments can allow the statistician to continue to grow in their career while avoiding "burn-out."

Biography

Helen McCulley attended Southern Missouri State University, where she obtained her B.S. in mathematics, Pittsburg State University, where she obtained her M.A. in theoretical mathematics, and the University of Kansas, where she received an M.S. in applied mathematics. She continues to take economics classes at Johns Hopkins University. Her first statistical job was that of a geostatistician for a NASA funded project aimed at using satellite data to help preserve and protect the Yellowstone forest. She joined the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) in 2002 as a mathematical statistician for the Consumer Expenditure Program and later transferred to the International Price Program. She left the BLS in 2009 to accept the position of lead metrics analyst for the Veterans Affairs Health Resource Center, but returned to the BLS in 2012 to continue her work as a senior statistician within the International Price Program.



November 14, 10:00am- 12:15pm: Statistics for Journalists

Organizers: Jeffrey Myers (ASA) and Wendy Martinez (BLS)

Moderator: Paul Overberg

Session Overview: Journalism students and reporters from broadcast, print and online media outlets will find this session helpful to their understanding of lesser-known federal statistical agencies, official statistics produced by these agencies, and how they can access and use official statistics, studies and analyses in their reporting. Presenters will include representatives of the Economic Research Service, National Center for Education Statistics, Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics, and National Center for Health Statistics.

Dr. Steve Crutchfield (USDA)

ERS Economic and Other Social Science Research and Analysis

Abstract Dr. Stephen Crutchfield will give an overview of the research, market analysis, data, and information tools available from USDA's Economic Research Service (ERS). The Economic Research Service provides economic and other social science research and analysis to inform public and private decision making on agriculture, food, natural resources, and rural America. ERS is also the primary source of statistical indicators that measure the health and performance of the sector. ERS is one of the 14 officially designated (by OMB) federal statistical agencies. This presentation will highlight the information resources of particular interest to news media, and demonstrate the variety of ways ERS can help journalists working on stories on a wide variety of issues.

Biography

Dr. Steve Crutchfield is the Assistant Administrator of USDA's ERS. He manages the Agency's Staff Analysis program, which provides fast turnaround responses to requests for data, research or analysis from external customers. Crutchfield holds a Ph.D., a Master of Philosophy, and a Master of Arts in Economics from Yale University. He obtained his B.A. in economics and history from the University of Washington in Seattle.



William J. Sabol (Bureau of Justice Statistics)

An Overview of BJS's Statistical Programs

Abstract:

Mr. Sabol will provide an overview of BJS's mission, core statistical programs, and a sampling of its series and topical reports that illustrate BJS's approach to reporting on the criminal justice system. He will discuss the resources available to journalists to access statistics and present questions for journalists to consider when talking about statistics with federal statisticians.

Biography

Bill Sabol, PhD, serves as acting director of the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) and is Principal Deputy Director of the Victimization and Corrections Collections Division at BJS. Dr. Sabol has more than 20 years of experience researching criminal justice issues in different settings, including BJS, the Government Accountability Office, Case Western Reserve University, the Urban Institute, and the University of Maryland. His research efforts over the years have focused primarily on criminal justice policy issues, notably on sentencing policy, the effects of incarceration on communities, and statistical issues and methods. Prior to completing his doctorate in 1988 from the Graduate School of Public and International Affairs at the University of Pittsburgh, he was a Fulbright Scholar at the Institute of Criminology at Cambridge University.



Susan Aud (National Center of Education Statistics)

An Overview of the Career and Research Opportunities at the National Center for Education Statistics

Abstract

NCES has developed many tools to assist users in accessing our data. Dr. Aud's presentation will walk the audience through our website in order to familiarize them with the organization of the Center, the types of data that are available, as well as the various tools that would allow them to create their own tables of data.

Biography

Dr. Aud is a Senior Research Scientist at the National Center for Education Statistics within the U.S. Department of Education. She is primarily responsible for producing an annual report to Congress and the White House regarding the condition of education in the United States, from preschool to graduate school. She also serves as a point of contact between the Center and its primary users—researchers, the media and the public. Prior to her work at NCES, Aud was a Senior Advisor in the Office of Planning, Evaluation, and Policy Development for the Department of Education. In addition, she has been a Senior Fellow at the Milton and Rose D. Friedman Foundation and the James Madison Institute. She also has taught Quantitative Methods in Political Science Research at the Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies at Johns Hopkins University and Statistical Methods in Policy Analysis at George Mason University.



Jeff Lancashire (National Center for Health Statistics)

Accessing NCHS Information Online

Abstract

In his presentation, Mr. Lancashire will discuss data topics from the four main NCHS data programs that are of particular interest to the news media. He also will discuss ways for reporters to access information about these topics from the NCHS website *Press Room*.

Biography

Lancashire is the Director of Public Affairs for the Center for Disease Control's National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS). Jeff has served in this leadership capacity for the past eight years after joining the NCHS Public Affairs team in 1992. Jeff originally joined the CDC in 1987 as a speechwriter with the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, after receiving his B.A. in Communications at the University of Georgia in Athens, GA. As part of his duties for NCHS, Jeff manages the agency's website *Press Room*, and handles media relations activities for the Center



Jeri Mulrow (National Center for Engineering Statistics)

A (virtual) tour of NCSES data and information

Abstract

This presentation will be a quick tour of the NCSES website pointing out specific data sources and information on the U.S. science and engineering enterprise. NCSES data cover scientists and engineers, their educational background and employment, along with R&D resources, including information on who performs and who funds R&D.

Biography

Jeri Mulrow is Acting Deputy Division Director for the NCSES, the federal statistical agency within the National Science Foundation (NSF). She joined NSF in 2001 as a mathematical statistician. Prior to assuming the acting director role, she was Director of the NCSES Information and Technology Services Program and was responsible for NCSES publications; the NCSES website; and the NCSES data system and data tools. She has 30 years of applied statistical practice with prior work experience at Ernst & Young, NORC, Statistics of Income, University of Southern Illinois, and National Institute of Standards and Technology, Boulder. Ms. Mulrow earned an M.S. in Statistics from Colorado State University and a B.S. in Mathematics from Montana State University. She is a Fellow and Vice President-elect of the American Statistical Association.



November 14, 1:00pm- 3:00pm: Statistics in the

New Media Era

PANEL SESSION

Organizers: Lauren Shaw (Census) and Neil Tillman (Census)
Moderator: Amanda Nguyen (USDA).

Session Overview: This session brings experts from around the federal government (including the federal statistical system) to discuss the usage of new media tools and services such as apps and APIs to ensure the public has greater access to government data. During the session, panelists from various federal agencies will share case studies on the sources of digital media they have implemented to reach new and existing users. Agencies will discuss the importance of involving and communicating with developer communities to ensure success of new media tools and services.

Moderator biography

Amanda Nguyen (Eamich) is the Director of Web Communications for USDA. Mrs. Nguyen coordinates web communications and digital media efforts throughout the Department, collaborating with web, IT and public affairs professionals. She has extensive experience developing integrated marketing and communication strategies, leveraging web, mobile and social media platforms to reach diverse audiences on a range of issues.



Tim Kearley (Bureau of Justice Statistics)

Biography

Tim Kearley is the IT Team Lead for the Technology and Data Management unit at the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS). His background is in engineering, computer programming and web interface design. His focus at BJS is finding ways to use technology to deliver data and other statistical products to the public in the most useful ways possible. For the last five years, he has worked on data management and dissemination innovations as an active member of Federal working groups such as Data.gov and the Statistical Community of Practice and Engagement (SCOPE).



Mark Elbert (EIA)

Biography

Mark Elbert has served as the Director of the Office of Web Management for the U.S. Energy Information Administration for the last five years, maintaining and enhancing www.eia.gov. He studied electrical engineering at Virginia Tech, and started his career designing chips used in consumer products such as Volkswagen automobiles and Apple computers. Becoming fascinated by the Internet, he switched to software and eventually entered government service. His current professional interests are creating systems on the web to allow users to manipulate, analyze, and create visualizations from complex data sets using the new generation of web-based toolkits. In addition to a bachelor's degree, Mark has a Master of Arts in National Security and Strategic Studies from the Naval War College, a Chief Information Officer certificate from the National Defense University, and most recently completed the Harvard Kennedy School of Government's Senior Executive Fellow program.



Jay Meisenheimer (BLS)

Biography

Jay Meisenheimer is Chief of the Division of New Media at the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. The division oversees all content on the BLS website and coordinates all BLS social media activities. New Media staff members spend much of their time developing interesting and informative infographics and helping their colleagues in the BLS statistical programs do the same. Jay spent the first 22 years of his career working as an economist in several BLS statistical programs and trying to help those programs communicate complex statistics clearly. During his 2 years in New Media, he has tried to apply the lessons he has learned from his prior jobs, but he realizes there is always more to learn. Jay's four children agree he has much to learn.



Jay McDaniel (BLS)

Biography

Jay McDaniel has worked as a visual information specialist at the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics for a little more than 2 years. Jay has created several types of interactive infographics, including maps for the BLS website. He primarily uses JavaScript, HTML, and CSS, as well as BLS and third-party charting APIs, to make the charts. Jay has spent more than a decade creating info graphics of one type or another, including 5 years in the Marine Corps as a journalist and editor. When Jay is not creating infographics, he is an avid rock climber, but lately he has spent more time trying to keep his 1-year old son from climbing everything in sight.



Lucas Hitt (BEA)

Biography



Lucas Hitt is the Chief of Communications for the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis. In this role, Lucas is responsible for the dissemination - to the public, media, and the world - of some of the nation's most closely watched economic indicators including key figures such as GDP, Personal Income, Corporate Profits and State Personal Income. Prior to joining the Bureau, Lucas spent six years as a consultant advising companies, state and local governments, and corporations on strategic communications, political strategy and government affairs. He is the former Legislative Director at the Air Force Association and a former aide to U.S. Senator Ernest "Fritz" Hollings of South Carolina. BEA's Communications Division handles a broad portfolio including the Bureau's websites, BEA's journal the *Survey of Current Business*, all public, media and congressional affairs, and a variety of other internal communications and planning functions.

Lisa Wolfisch (Census)

Biography

Lisa Wolfisch has spent her career at the US Census Bureau using the internet to deliver value to citizens. Starting as a cartographer writing interactive mapping systems and now as Chief of the Web and Social Media Branch, she loves all things digital and looks to a wide range of sources for ideas and inspiration. She and her branch coordinate across the agency on the development of new products and services to create a modern platform for data dissemination.

